

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten paragraph:

a2 A grip adapted for attachment to a writing implement includes a longitudinally extending tubular shell having an inner surface and an outer surface. The grip further includes a viscoelastic hand/finger surface formed about the outer surface of the tubular shell.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1 and 3-11 as follows:

1. (Amended) A writing implement, comprising:

a main body having a gripping portion;

a grip shaped and dimensioned to fit about the gripping portion of the main body so as to be releasably secured to the main body;

B A3 the grip including a longitudinally extending, tubular shell having hardness sufficient to maintain the shape of the grip, the shell has an inner surface abutting with the main body and an outer surface, and a viscoelastic hand/finger surface positioned about the outer surface of the tubular shell; the shell further including proximal and distal lips retaining the viscoelastic hand/finger surface positioned in a central section of the tubular shell.

B *B3.2* (Amended) The writing implement according to claim *1*, wherein the viscoelastic hand/finger surface is a viscoelastic solid-phase polymer material.

A. ³ (Amended) The writing implement according to claim ³, wherein the viscoelastic solid-phase polymer material is a thermoplastic elastomer.

B. ⁴ ¹ (Amended) The writing implement according to claim ², wherein the viscoelastic hand/finger surface is a viscous liquid material contained within an elastomeric bag.

C. ⁵ ⁴ (Amended) The writing implement according to claim ⁵, wherein the viscous liquid material is a silicone gel or silicone oil.

7. (Amended) The writing implement according to claim 1, wherein the grip is integrally formed with the main body of the writing implement.

8. (Amended) The writing implement according to claim 7, wherein the viscoelastic hand/finger surface is a viscoelastic solid-phase polymer material.

9. (Amended) The writing implement according to claim 8, wherein the viscoelastic solid-phase polymer material is a thermoplastic elastomer.

10. (Amended) The writing implement according to claim 7, wherein the viscoelastic hand/finger surface is a viscous liquid material contained within an elastomeric bag.